Gifted and Talented Coordinators Meeting

Wimba Session Hosted by: The High-Ability Student Initiative Program

January 8, 2009 9:30 to 10:20 a.m.

<u>Attendees</u>: Sheri Sorensen, Granite; Sheri Sauvé, Davis; Chris Fournier, Park City; Amy Salyer, Washington; Paul Shepherd, Granite; Kay Erwin, Murray; Val Pack, Iron Coutny; Teri Mattson, Jordan; William Spiegel, USOE; Mary Kay Kirkland, Box Elder; Mark Dockins, Uintah; Ginny Smith; Darlene; Barbara Langford, Alpine; Sue Sakashita, Salt Lake; Marilyn Lewis, Nebo; Matt (Tech Support for High-Ability Student Initiative).

Excused: Moya Kessig

Welcome: Amy Salyer made sure that those who were checked in could be heard.

<u>Information from Moya (William)</u>: Moya will send us a survey link on content and speakers for future Coordinators meetings.

<u>UAGC Update</u>: Sheri Sorensen - Annual Conference – January 29-31.

- Early Bird Registration has been extended to Jan. 15th
 - o 150 were registered so far, numbers are down in comparison to past conferences.
- Amy and Matt stated they would like to video tape sessions of the conference and do a content DVD in order to begin to build digital archives. Written approval from participants would be required in order to film and disseminate DVDs. Kay Erwin will send out letters to presenters and could add something about them signing a statement if they would be willing to be filmed.
 - Additional suggested sessions to film:
 - Local breakout sessions.
 - Creativity Night.
 - Current practitioners modeling what they do in their classrooms in order to generate enthusiasm for the strategies needed to teach gifted and talented students.

District Sharing:

Alpine, Barbara Langford – Very excited about UAGC Conference and the presentations being taped. They are looking forward to Creativity and Science Night at UAGC. They have many teachers coming. They are also preparing for the spring application placement for accelerated learning labs. Expressed appreciation for all who are so knowledgeable and willing to share information on how to get through this in a professional manner.

Box Elder, Mary Kay Kirkland: Expressed excitement about participating in the High Ability Initiative cohort group. Robin has started a cohort group in Logan. They have a group of teachers excited for the on-line endorsement. Box Elder has 14 participants in the High-Ability Initiative program including a principal. This is the largest group of participants from any district **Granite, Sheri Sorensen:** They are in the midst of testing.

Park City, Chris Fornier: Teachers are excited about the High-Ability Initiative. She has about 20 teachers going to UAGC. They are still in committee about changes to the program for next year. **Murray, Kay Erwin:** They are in the middle of testing.

Davis, Sheri Sauve: Testing also. Did a School Board presentation on the IB program.

Jordan, Teri Mattson: In Jordan everything is moving along well. They are experiencing changes in identification for their program. They have a committee with parents who have proven to be great community advocates. The district split will be happening in a few months and they anticipate their programs will continue. There will be a new G/T coordinator in the Canyons District. They have received permission to start a Middle School task force to see what kind of programming they want to put in place. She asked if this group knows of any resources for the Middle School level.

Granite, Paul Shepherd: Stated that NAGC recently published recommendations for Middle School G/T programs.

Iron County, Val Pack: Giving up time and sub coverage for teachers to attend UAGC is difficult. They have a District-wide team with representation from all levels, including administrators, constructing an RTI Model. Not just a remediation model, but how do we respond for interventions for all kids? Need to do similar things for kids on the other end. Anticipates it will take us at least until the end of this year to get a model in place and all of next year to refine it. Stated that this is a huge leap that will take time, but she is excited for the opportunities she sees coming with the RTI model. Washington, Amy Salyer: Four G/T specialists will be attending UAGC. They are continuing to work on an identification process. There are currently 6 districts and 13 schools involved in the High-Ability Initiative project. All Park City schools are taking part in the project. There are 48 teachers right now. San Juan District will have a few more teachers and this will help them reach the goal of fifty teachers. There are 14 applicants for coaching positions. Appreciation expressed to Sheri Sorensen and Teri Mattson for volunteering to be coaches. There was a major equipment distribution in December and they will be ready to roll in January.

Salt Lake, Sue Sakashita: A parent has volunteered to teach a math class and his daughter (West High) achieved a perfect score on the Math competition.

Discussion:

High-Initiative Project in relation to the funding crisis-

- Amy spoke with Representative Brad Last who warned of additional budget cuts. This could also affect the on-line G/T Endorsement program.
- Sheri said Teri Lane will be watching the Legislature daily for UAGC. If necessary, we can start the UAGC list serve and encourage them to get in touch with their legislators. Parents of students and teachers can also get involved if necessary.
- Amy stated that UAGC membership is valuable in getting involved. They should make sure they are on the list serve.
- Mary Kay thanked Amy for conducting the Wimba meeting.

<u>Thank You</u> to Amy Salyer for conducting the meeting and Granite District for the continental breakfast and providing a place to meet.

Next Meeting: February 12, 2009 at Salt Lake City School District; Hosted by Davis School District.

Adjourned @ 10:20 a.m.